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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 26, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 21 totaled an estimated 17.3 billion ton-miles, 9.5 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 38 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 644.7 billion ton-miles, down 5.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 21 totaled 392,931, down 8.3 percent from last year, but 0.4 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 8.8 percent in the East, 8.2 percent in the South and 8.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. The greatest declines were in loadings of coal, down by 15,791 cars (11.6 percent) and grain, down by 11,000 cars (36.3 percent). Motor vehicles and equipment posted a gain of 3,865 cars (22.1 percent). Eleven of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended September 14 totaled 94,664 trailers and/or containers, 1.9 percent above the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 37 weeks of the year was 3,162,422 trailers and/or containers, down 2.1 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/21/85:

	Loadings in Week ended September 21, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	19,306	D	11,000	36.3	D	553	2.8
Other farm products	3,355	D	157	4.5	I	123	3.8
Metallic ores	13,525	D	6,778	33.4	I	900	7.1
Coal	120,741	D	15,791	11.6	D	1,380	1.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,968	I	662	5.0	I	274	2.0
Nonmetallic minerals	13,268	I	765	6.1	I	1,213	10.1
Grain mill products	10,713	D	109	1.0	D	73	0.7
Food and kindred products	11,306	D	27	0.2	D	50	0.4
Primary forest products	11,204	D	3,169	22.4	I	121	1.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,246	D	223	3.0	I	274	3.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,289	D	1,660	11.1	I	240	1.8
Chemicals and allied products	24,433	D	1,537	5.9	D	933	3.7
Petroleum products	4,991	I	64	1.3	D	94	1.8
Stone, clay and glass products	11,245	D	969	7.9	I	41	0.4
Coke	4,604	D	75	1.6	I	108	2.4
Metals and products	8,426	I	132	1.6	D	183	2.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,341	I	3,865	22.1	D	244	1.1
Waste and scrap materials	9,195	D	475	4.9	D	178	1.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,075	D	313	4.2	I	147	2.1
All other carloads	63,529	I	1,141	1.8	I	1,852	3.0
LCL traffic	171	I	1	0.6	D	10	5.5
Total Cars Loaded	392,931	D	35,653	8.3	I	1,595	0.4
Corresponding week of 1984	428,584						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (38 weeks)	14,187,202	15,090,983	D 6.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
37 Weeks ended September 14	627.3	662.2	D 5.3
Week ended September 21	17.3	19.1	D 9.5
38 weeks cumulative	644.7	681.2	D 5.4